

Message

From: Hubbard, Carolyn [Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/20/2020 7:37:39 PM
To: Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer [Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov]
CC: Rodan, Bruce [rodan.bruce@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Press request

Thoughts on this- from OSAPE. On the first one it really seems like a question for the AO.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Carolyn Hubbard
Communications Director
EPA Office of Research and Development
202-564-2189
202-379-6744

From: Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer <Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 9:55 AM
To: Blackburn, Elizabeth <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Press request

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, PhD
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Research and Development
US Environmental Protection Agency

DC 202-564-6620
Cell 919-699-1564

From: Gentry, Nathan <Gentry.Nathan@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 9:48 AM
To: Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer <Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Cc: Blackburn, Elizabeth <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press request

FYI, this is the full text of the questions sent by the NYT reporter. Don't know that it impacts your answers, but I noticed David didn't send to you.

From: Lisa Friedman <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Date: November 19, 2020 at 5:21:22 PM EST
To: "Hewitt, James" <hewitt.james@epa.gov>, Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: NYT request

Hi again James. Sorry to hit you twice in one day. I'm working on a story that will tie in the regs and other policies the EPA hopes to finish up before January 20 with what's happening with the EPA transition. I'm going to have questions in a few different areas.

I'd love to get what I can by end of day tomorrow, but I know this is a lot. If that's not possible just let me know and we'll talk about pushing back to Monday.

1. First I wanted to just make sure I have a good sense of Mr. Wheeler's priorities for the next 60+ days. Based on interviews he's given and conversions I've had with Scott Segal and others it sounds like his top goals are the two remaining NAAQS, the cost benefit rule and the transparency reg. Is that accurate? Do you want to offer a different statement about what Mr. Wheeler hopes to accomplish these last months?
2. On the transparency reg - I have a dissenting scientific opinion written by Dr. Tom Sinks before he retired. I'm told that a DSO is pretty unusual and indicates that agency scientists did not have other avenues to register their concerns about this regulation. Can you comment on that?
3. Can you also comment on how much of a black mark against this regulation it is to have a dissenting scientific opinion from the agency's director of the office of science and top epidemiologist?
4. On scientific integrity... Back in August you told me that Administrator Wheeler did not request that work be stopped on the corrective actions that the Inspector General requested on scientific integrity. But Sept. 30 has come and gone and EPA has not, as promised, "**Determine the extent and cause of the concerns related to culture and "tone at the top**, based on the indicators from the OIG's scientific integrity survey. Issue the results to all EPA staff and make available to the public, **including planned actions to address the causes.**" I'm told that there is nothing beyond the Nov. 12 scientific integrity policy/statement he put out, no action plan or anything else agreed upon in the IG report.
+ Why not?

+ Can we revisit that August statement you gave me? It seems in retrospect to have been misleading.

5. The scientific integrity policy that the administrator did issue earlier this month was changed in the following ways, based on track change documents obtained by the NYT:

+ The final version deletes mention of a scientific process "without political interference, coercion of scientists or regard to risk management implications."

+ Can you explain the reason for the change?

6. I'm told that in addition to rollbacks, addressing the changes that Mr. Wheeler and before him Mr. Pruitt made to the science advisory boards (not allowing anyone with EPA grants to serve) will be high on the list of changes a Biden admin EPA will make. Care to comment on that?

7. Is closing the NY regional office of EPA still being considered?

I think that's it for now. Again - I know it's a lot -- many thanks

Lisa

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Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office
(202) 251-2083 cell

From: Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 9:19 AM
To: Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer <Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Cc: Blackburn, Elizabeth <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Press request

Working on it

Carolyn Hubbard
Communications Director
EPA Office of Research and Development
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On Nov 20, 2020, at 9:14 AM, Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer <Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov> wrote:

See below

Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, PhD
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
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DC 202-564-6620
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From: Dunlap, David <dunlap.david@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 8:02 AM

To: Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer <Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov>

Cc: Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Fitzmorris, Amanda <fitzmorris.amanda@epa.gov>

Subject: Press request

Jennifer,

OPA sent me these questions last night (see below). Can you and Carolyn please draft up a response and deliver back to me as soon as possible. I will then forward to OPA.

Thanks

DDD

David D. Dunlap
O – 202.564.6620

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